

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 10/721,262

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An image recording apparatus which records an image on a recording medium, the image recording apparatus comprising in a housing thereof:

a water vapor removing section which removes water vapor; and

a solvent recovering section which recovers vapor of organic solvent, which evaporates within the housing.

2. (original): An image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the vapor of organic solvent is vapor evaporated from a recording liquid for recording the image on the recording medium.

3. (original): An image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the water vapor removing section is provided at an inlet port which takes in air from outside of the housing into the inside of the housing.

4. (original): An image recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the solvent recovering section is provided at an outlet port which exhausts air from the inside of the housing to the outside of the housing.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 10/721,262

5. (original): An image recording apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the housing is in a substantially sealed state except for the inlet port and the outlet port.

6. (original): An image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an activated carbon filter is used as the water vapor removing section.

7. (original): An image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a silica gel filter is used as the water vapor removing section.

8. (original): An image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image recording apparatus is an ink jet type image recording apparatus.

9. (previously presented): An image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the solvent recovering section is disposed within the housing.

10. (previously presented): An image recording apparatus according to claim 9 further comprising:

a head that has one or more ink channels and one or more ejection portions, wherein the head is disposed within the housing.

11. (previously presented): An image recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the vapor of organic solvent is evaporated from ink drops ejected by the head within the housing.

12. (currently amended): An image recording method, comprising:

removing water vapor in a housing of an image recording apparatus; and

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 10/721,262

recovering vapor of organic solvent in the housing, which evaporates within ~~a-the~~
~~housing of an image recording apparatus.~~

13. (previously presented): An image recording method according to claim 12, wherein
the recovering of vapor of organic solvent occurs within the housing.

14. (previously presented): An image recording method according to claim 13, wherein
the water vapor is removed close to an inlet port which takes in air from an outside of the
housing of the image recording apparatus into an inside of the housing of the image recording
apparatus.

15. (previously presented): An image recording method according to claim 14, wherein
the solvent is recovered close to an outlet port which exhausts air from the inside of the housing
of the image recording apparatus into the outside of the housing of the image recording
apparatus.

16. (previously presented): An image recording method according to claim 15, wherein
the housing is in a substantially sealed state except for the inlet port and the outlet port.

17. (previously presented): An image recording method according to claim 12, wherein
water vapor is removed with an activated carbon filter.

18. (previously presented): An image recording method according to claim 12, wherein
water vapor is removed with a silica gel filter.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 10/721,262

19. (new): An image recording apparatus of according to claim 1, wherein the water vapor removing section removes water vapor from air being taken in into the housing.

20. (new): An image recording apparatus of according to claim 3, wherein a water vapor content of air at the inlet port is higher than a water vapor content of air at a downstream side of the water vapor removing section.

21. (new): An image recording apparatus according to claim 9 further comprising:
a head comprising a plurality of ink channels and a plurality of ejection portions, wherein the head is disposed within the housing.

22. (new): An image recording method according to claim 12, wherein the removing water vapor comprises removing water vapor from air being taken in into the housing.

23. (new): An image recording method according to claim 14, wherein air with the water vapor removed is taken in into the inside of the housing.